

Appl. No. 10/536,977

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT dated December 12, 2008

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (New) A tap adapter for use in dispensing an alcohol beverage from a dispensing apparatus having a keg for containing an alcohol beverage, the keg having a neck, a valve assembly mounted to the neck of the keg, the valve assembly having a first valve through which beverage is dispensed from the keg, and a housing in which the keg and valve assembly are positioned during beverage dispensing, the tap adapter comprising:

a hollow arm adapted for releasably mounting in sealed relation with the valve assembly in fluid flow communication with the first valve, the hollow arm having a first end portion and a second end portion remote therefrom, the first end portion adapted to connect to the first valve to open the valve; and

a tap connected to the remote end of the hollow arm, the tap being operable between a closed position shutting off flow of beverage through the hollow arm, and an open position, permitting beverage to flow through the hollow arm and out the tap,

said hollow arm being separable to receive an interchangeable dispensing tube being a tubular cartridge for interconnecting the tap with the first valve and through which the beverage is dispensed.

53. (New) The tap adapter of claim 52 wherein the keg has a self contained bag filled with an alcohol beverage,

the valve assembly further having a second valve through which pressurized air is fed into the keg against an outside wall of the bag, the tap adapter further comprising:

an air passageway adapted to be connected to the second valve in sealed fluid communication therewith; and

a pump connected to the air line passageway for supplying pressurized air to the second valve.

54. (New) The tap adapter according to claim 53 wherein the air line passageway has a first end portion that connects to and opens the second valve and has a second end portion connected to the pump.

55. (New) The tap adapter according to claim 53 wherein the air line passageway has an air valve adapted for connection to the pump.

56. (New) The tap adapter of claim 52 wherein:
the valve system supports a bag within the keg filled with the beverage, the valve system including a second valve through which pressurized air is injected into the keg against an outside wall of the bag; and

the dispensing adapter includes an air line passageway adapted to be connected to the second valve in sealed fluid flow communication therewith, the air line passageway having a first end portion that connects to and opens the second valve, and the air line

passageway having a second end portion housing an air valve that is adapted to be connected to a pressurized air supply.

57. (New) The tap adapter of claim 56, wherein the air line passageway is an integral part of the adapter.

58. (New) The adapter of claim 56 wherein the valve assembly has a valve neck portion that extends beyond the neck portion of the keg; and the adapter has a base portion for supporting the hollow arm, the base portion comprising a neck adapted to releasably engage the valve neck and an annular flange portion adapted to abut the keg.

59. (New) The dispensing arm of claim 58 wherein the base portion has spring locking members that engage the valve neck and are movable to release the adapter from the valve assembly.

60. (New) The tap adapter of claim 1 wherein the tap forms an integral part of the hollow arm of the adapter.

61. (New) The tap adapter of claim 52 wherein the tap has a cam member that rotates to close fluid flow through the hollow arm of the adapter.

62. (New) The tap adapter of claims 52 wherein the hollow arm is pivotally connected adjacent the first end portion to permit for separation of the hollow arm into an upper arm portion and a lower arm portion.

63. (New) The tap adapter of claim 62 wherein the lower arm portion is adapted to receive the cartridge in snap fit relation therewith.

64. (New) The tap adapter of claim 52 wherein the hollow arm supports an insertable tubular cartridge having a tube through which the beverage flows.

65. (New) The tap adapter of claim 52 wherein the tap has a cam member that rotates to close fluid flow through the tubular arm by pinching the tube closed.

66. (New) The tap adapter of claim 53 wherein the pump is manually operated.

67. (New) The tap adapter according to claim 52 which further comprises a relief valve located on said hollow arm downstream of said tap and upstream of a discharge end portion of said arm, which valve, when the tap is in a closed position inhibiting flow of beverage through the arm, is adapted to allow air to pass into the arm upstream of said discharge end portion whereby the beverage in the arm downstream of said relief valve freely flows out the discharge end portion.

68. (New) The tap adapter according to claim 17 wherein the tap is positioned adjacent the relief valve and closes the relief valve when the tap is in the open position.

69. (New) The tap adapter according to claim 52, further comprising a flexible dispensing tube being supported in said hollow arm, said dispensing tube having a first end portion connected with the first valve for receiving the beverage, the dispensing tube having a second end portion from which the beverage is dispensed, and the dispensing tube having a relief valve located between the first and second end portions; and said tap in the open position permitting the beverage to flow through the dispense tube, and the tap in the closed position engaging the dispense tube upstream of the relief valve to pinch the dispense tube closed inhibiting flow of the beverage through the dispense tube and to open the relief valve allowing air to pass into the dispense tube upstream of the second end portion whereby the beverage in the discharge tube downstream of the relief valve continues to freely flow out the second end portion.

70. (New) The tap adapter of claim 69 wherein the dispensing tube has an elastic wall and the relief valve comprises a slit extending through the elastic wall.

71. (New) The tap adapter of claim 70 wherein the tap has an actuating member that covers the slit when the tap is in the open position and that pivots to pinch the elastic wall of the dispense tube upstream of the slit and to open the slit of the elastic wall of the

dispense tube to permit air to enter into the dispense tube upstream of the dispense end portion and downstream of the pinched elastic wall.

72. (New) The tap adapter of claim 71 wherein the tap pivots between the open and closed positions at a pivot point positioned immediately upstream of the relief valve.

73. (New) The tap adapter of claim 69 wherein the valve assembly supports a bag within the keg filled with the beverage, the valve assembly including a second valve through which pressurized air is injected into the keg against an outside wall of the bag.

74. (New) The tap adapter of claim 73 wherein the valve assembly has a valve neck portion that extends beyond the neck portion of the keg; and
the adapter has a base portion for supporting the hollow arm,
the base portion comprising a neck adapted to releasably engage the valve neck and
an annular flange portion adapted to abut the keg.

75. (New) The tap adapter of claim 69 wherein the tap forms an integral part of the hollow arm of the adapter.

76. (New) Alcohol beverage dispensing apparatus comprising:
a keg for containing an alcohol beverage, the keg having a neck;

Appl. No. 10/536,977

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT dated December 12, 2008

Reply to Office Action of September 12, 2008

a valve assembly mounted to the neck of the keg, the valve assembly having a first valve through which beverage is dispensed from the keg;

a housing in which the keg and valve assembly are positioned during beverage dispensing;

a tap adapter according to claim 1; and

a tap connected to the remote end of the hollow arm, the tap being operable between a closed position shutting off flow of beverage through the hollow arm and an open position permitting beverage to flow through the hollow arm and out the tap.